

Currituck Sound Study Team Meeting

June 10 2004

9:30 am to 12:15 pm

College of the Albemarle

List of Attendees

ORGANIZATION

PHONE

| | | |
|---|------|----------------------|
| 1. Paquotank River Basin Regional Council | None | (252) 338-3557 |
| 2. USACE, Waterways Experiment Station Duck, NC | | (252) 261-6840ext229 |
| 3. US Army Corps of Engineers(USACE)Wilmington | | (910) 251-4706 |
| 4. USACE, Norfolk | | (757) 441-7766 |
| 5. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) | | (252) 429-3100 |
| 6. USACE, Wilmington | | (910) 251-4055 |
| 7. NC Coastal Federation | | (252) 441-2525 |
| 8. NC National Estuarine Research Reserve | | (252) 261-8891 |
| 9. Elizabeth City State Univ., SAV Monitoring | | (252) 335-3595 |
| 10. USACE, Wilmington | | (910) 251-4831 |
| 11. Virginia Dept. Conservation & Recreation | | (757) 925 2468 |
| 12. USACE, Wilmington | | (910) 251-4505 |
| 13. USACE, Norfolk | | (757) 441-7764 |
| 14. NC Division of Water Resources | | (919) 733-4064 |
| 15. NC Division of Water Quality | | (252) 946-6481 |
| 16. USFWS | | (252) 473-6983 |
| 17. Fisherman | | (252) 453-2545 |
| 18. USACE, Wilmington | | (910) 251-4547 |
| 19. NC Division of Coastal Management | | (252) 264-3901 |
| 20. County Manager, Currituck County | | (252) 232-2075 |
| 21. Natl. Oceanic & Atmospheric Admin . (NOAA) | | (252) 728-5090 |
| 22. NC Division of Water Resources | | (910) 715-5446 |
| 23. USACE, Norfolk | | (757) 441-7589 |
| 24. Hampton Roads Planning District Commission | | (757) 420-8300 |
| 25. USACE, Wilmington | | (910) 251-4694 |
| 26. NC Division of Marine Fisheries | | (252) 264-3911 |

Welcome and Introduction

Yates Barber, Lisa Hetherman, and John Morris welcomed the group. Ms. Hetherman asked all participants to introduce themselves.

Corps of Engineers' Norfolk District Presentation

Greg Steele stated the Norfolk District has military and civil works missions. They are currently working on a study of the Dismal Swamp area. The reconnaissance phase is close to completion. The goal of the Study is to restore historic flows. The Norfolk District's Lynnhaven Environmental Restoration Study includes the following areas of investigation: toxic sediment removal, oyster habitat restoration, water quality initiatives, submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) restoration, siltation, and tidal wetlands restoration. This study is in the reconnaissance phase. The Elizabeth River Restoration Study is in the Pre-Construction and Design Phase 1. The goal of this study is to restore the Elizabeth River to the highest level practical and maintain a buffer between developed areas. Also, the Norfolk District's work area includes the Chowan, James, and York Rivers. Mr. Steele and Michelle Cleland from the Norfolk District are pleased to be Currituck Study team members and look forward to working on this Study.

Description of the Three Phase Study Approach

Coleman Long described the three phase study approach. The Study is currently in phase 1 of the feasibility study. Phase 1 includes: determining what data is available, what data is needed, and what studies should be performed to acquire additional data. The product for phase 1 is a scope of work for phase 2. Phase 2 includes: performing studies, identifying problems, needs, and opportunities as well as establishing specific goals and objectives. The product for phase 2 is a scope of work for phase 3. Phase 3 includes: developing alternatives to meet objectives, determining outputs and impacts of each action and identifying the recommended actions. The product for phase 3 is the feasibility report.

Review Technical Work Group Names

After discussion, the meeting participants not only agreed to include SAV's in the work group with fisheries and shellfish as was suggested at the last meeting, but also agreed to add waterfowl to this work group. It was decided that a new work group, public involvement, would be added. All agreed that water quality and hydrographic modeling should be a work group. The three study work groups and their work group leaders are as follows: Fisheries, Shellfish, SAV's, and Waterfowl - Chuck Wilson

Hydrologic/Hydrodynamics and Water Quality Modeling - Hasan Pourtaheri

Public Involvement - Tara Williams

Participants were requested to sign up for work groups during the break. The following is a list of participants that signed up to be on these work groups or have indicated prior to the meeting their desire to participate in the work groups. Also, there is a list of other agencies that may have an interest in participating.

Work Groups:

Fisheries, Shellfish, SAV's, and Waterfowl Group

USACE, Wilmington (910) 251-4746

The following is a list of those who signed up at the June 10 meeting to be part of this work group. These individuals are specifically interested in waterfowl.

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>ORGANIZATION</u> | <u>E-MAIL ADDRESS</u> | <u>PHONE</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Back Bay Nat. Wildlife Refuge | (252) 429-3100 | | |
| Mackay Nat. Wildlife Refuge | (252) 429-3100 | | |
| USFWS | (252) 473-6983 | | |

These individuals are specifically interested in fisheries.

NC Wildlife Resources Commission (252) 335-9898
East Carolina Univ., SAV Monitoring (252) 335-3595
NC Division of Marine Fisheries (252) 796-1322
NC Wildlife Resources Commission (252) 338-3607
NC Division of Coastal Management (252) 264-3901
NOAA (252) 728-5090
NC Wildlife Resources Commission (252) 335-4961
NC Division of Marine Fisheries (252) 264-3911

Mr. Barber is interested in fisheries, shellfish, SAV's, and waterfowl.

Pasquotank River Basin Council None (252) 338-3557

Other groups that we have determined could be represented on the combined Fisheries, Shellfish, SAV's, and Waterfowl Team.

Sportsmen

National Audubon Society

NC Coastal Reserve

NC Division of Water Resources

NC Center for Geographic Info.

Guides

Commercial Fishermen

NC Division of Forestry

Hydrologic/Hydrodynamics and Water Quality Modeling Group

USACE, Wilmington District (910) 251-4547

NAME ORGANIZATION E-MAIL ADDRESS PHONE

U.S. Geological Survey (919) 571-4048

Pasquotank River Basin Council None (252) 338-3557

USACE, Waterways Experiment Station Duck, NC (252) 261-6840ext229

North Carolina Coastal Federation (252) 473-1607

Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (757) 420-8300

Other groups that we have determined could be represented on the Hydrologic/Hydrodynamics and Water Quality Modeling Group.

USFWS

ERDC

Norfolk District, USACE

NMFS

NC DWQ

NC DWR

VA Dept. of Environmental Quality

EPA

Public Involvement Group

USACE, Wilmington District (910) 251-4694

The following is a list of those who signed up at the June 10 meeting to be part of this work group.

NAME ORGANIZATION E-MAIL ADDRESS PHONE

NC National Estuarine Research Reserve (252) 261-8891

Virginia Dept. Conservation & Recreation (757) 925 2468

County Manager, Currituck County (252) 232-2075

NC Division of Water Resources (910) 715-5446

Funding Report

Ms. Hetherman reported on funding status for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 and 2005. There is a total of \$90,000 for FY 2004 (half of the funding from the State of North Carolina and half from the Corps of Engineers). The funds must be spent equally and the State cannot get ahead of the Corps in study cash. There is \$143,000 Federal dollars in the President's FY 2005 Budget. The Corps has a new budget process for FY 2006. Therefore, the amount of Federal funds this study will receive for FY 2006 is unknown at this time.

Assignments to Complete by September Meeting

Ms. Hetherman requested that the work groups meet by August 31 to complete a scope of work for phase 1. The Corps of Engineers' team leaders for the work groups will e-mail participants a draft scope of work for their review prior to the meeting. The scope of work will include tasks, costs, methods of accomplishment, and task prioritization.

Public Involvement Work Group Tasks

The task for public involvement work group is to create a scope of work which will include:

Communication strategies - Among study participants as well as with the Public

Public meetings

Citizen involvement

Newsletters

Website

Surveys

Articles

School awareness

Study Goals

A question came up as to what the goal of the Study is. A few people questioned whether the goal was to keep the Sound salty or to return the Sound to a more fresh water state. Several people were on track with the Study purpose and stated that the net result may be a salt or fresh water Sound, but the purpose of the Study is to describe a Sound condition that will provide a healthy environment for the most living organisms (highest productivity). Bob Noffsinger and others agreed that a goal should be to reduce salinity fluctuations and restore SAV since extreme salinity fluctuations and loss of SAV are harmful to most species. Our goal must be to strive for environmental sustainability. The desired outcome must be feasible. We must use the accepted Corps of Engineers' Planning Process to determine what is best for the Sound. The use of models will help us determine what conditions are required for the most productive Sound. These models will only be useful if we have the right data to input. We must determine what studies are required to get the output we need from our models. We need to keep an open mind and be flexible when we study Nature. We want balance and synergy between living systems.

Study Data

During discussion it was mentioned that the Hampton Roads Planning Commission had existing knowledge of a comprehensive drainage study. Also, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers research lab in Duck, NC has data on rainfall, winds, and waves from the 1980's. SAV mapping exists. There are aerial photos have been taken from Back Bay to Kitty Hawk. Kyle Hall has data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Ferry monitoring should be looked into as a means for collecting water depth, salinity, and direction of water flow. The State of North Carolina can help with potential ferry monitors. Yates Barber has information on the current ferry routes. **ACTION:** Mr. Pourtaheri and Mr. Wilson will work together to talk with the appropriate technical experts prior to our next meeting and capture this information in their scopes of work.

Other Study Suggestions

Invite the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the highway department to the next meeting (**ACTION:** Ms. Hetherman). Talk with a representative from Dare County before the next meeting. Dare County representatives were invited to the June meeting, but were unable to attend. (**ACTION:** Ms. Hetherman).

Next Meeting

September 15 is the date the group agreed to for the next meeting. The College of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City was recognized as a good location for this meeting. Mr. Barber and Ms. Hetherman will provide details as to the meeting location.